

16 OCT 1951

LIBRARY

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1950

Officials:

Medical Officer of Health	...	W. W. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.
Sanitary Inspector	...	G. G. Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1 9 5 0

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual Report on the sanitary conditions and state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District for the year 1950.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 112/50 (Wales)

SECTION I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year.

Area	...	...	31,414 acres.
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	2,149
Population (Estimated at midsummer 1950)	...	...	1,884
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	560
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u>
Live births.			
Legitimate	18	9	27      14.3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	Birth rate for England and Wales		15.8
Still births.	0	0	0      0
	Still birth rate for England and Wales		0.37
Deaths	17	6	23      12.2
	Death rate for England and Wales		11.6
Maternal deaths.	0	0	0      0
Deaths under one year:-			
All infants	1.	Rate per 1,000 live births      37.03	
Infant mortality	Nil.	England and Wales      29.80	
Deaths from special causes:-			
Infectious disease	...	Nil.	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system		Nil.	
Other tuberculosis disease	...	Nil.	
Cancer	...	Nil.	

Area

The Rural District of Painscastle, which has an area of 31,414 acres forms part of the County of Radnor. The district is situated in the south east part of the County and is of an agricultural nature. There are no towns in the district.

<u>Population</u>	Census 1931		...	2,149
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950.</u>
	1,750	1,872	1,908	1,884

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for midsummer of each year and apply only to the civilian population. The population has been increasing steadily since 1947 but during 1950 shows a decrease of 24, a percentage of 1.25 on 1949 estimate and some 14.4 on 1931.



The number of inhabited houses in the district was 560 giving an average number of 3.36 persons per house.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	11	11	22	16.0
1948 ...	14	17	31	16.5
1949 ...	18	24	42	22.01
1950 ...	18	9	27	14.3
England & Wales 1950	...	...		15.8

It will be observed that the birth rate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the nett number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	7	6	13	12.0
1948 ...	9	9	18	9.6
1949 ...	11	12	23	12.05
1950 ...	17	6	23	12.2
England & Wales 1950	...	...		11.6

The death rate for 1950 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales but was less than the birth rate for the year.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	0	0	0	0
1948 ...	1	0	1	0.42
1949 ...	0	2	2	1.04
1950 ...	0	0	0	0
England & Wales 1950	...	...		0.37

The still birth rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1,000 live births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	1	0	1	36.0
1948 ...	1	0	1	32.2
1949 ...	0	0	0	0
1950 ...	1	0	1	37.03
England & Wales 1950	...	...		29.80

The infant mortality rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Males</u> ... 17.	<u>Females</u> ... 6
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant Neoplasm of stomach	...	0
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	2
Coronary Disease	...	0
Other Heart Disease	...	2
Other Circulatory Disease	...	0
Pneumonia	...	0
Bronchitis	...	1
Road traffic accidents	...	0
Suicide	...	0
All other causes	...	0



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28869333>



Illegitimacy There were no illegitimate births during the year.

Maternal Mortality There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

## SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers There was no change in the public health officers during the year. Mr. G.G.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Hereford and Brecon, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All milk sampling was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr and Hereford Isolation Hospitals conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to Hospital.

Home Nursing Under the new Health Act the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council, and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council, the nearest is at Llandrindod Wells, some 27 miles away. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases, apart from infectious disease, are provided for at Hereford Hospital. A few cases are admitted at Brecon and Llandrindod. For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. In the main current disinfection is advised.

## SECTION 3 MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers; provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

## SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and workings of the Factories Act which are included in this section of the report. Water has been satisfactory in quantity during the year for those dwellings below the 500 ft. contour but most unsatisfactory for the majority of dwellings above this height.





The scheme previously submitted by the Consulting Engineer was advanced during the year but real progress is very slow.

## WATER REPORT

### (a) Boughrood Parish

Eight houses in the vicinity of Boughrood bridge draw water from the Ilyswen supply. The remaining houses have private supplies. In times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality 'suspicious'. A scheme for improving this supply was put forward during the year and this will make more water available. I sincerely hope that the scheme known as the Bostin will mature in the very near future.

### (b) Bryngwyn Parish

The Council own one small water supply in this parish. The extension of the water mains to the hamlet of Rhosgoch was completed in early 1949. In times of drought this parish suffers greatly both from domestic and agricultural needs and your Consulting Engineer has submitted a scheme which will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

### (c) Clyro Parish

The parish has one water supply which serves some 37 properties; 19 cottages are served from standpipes and 25 other properties have the water laid on. The supply was laid down some 45 years ago and for many years the maintenance has been carried out by Clyro Court Estate; the whole scheme has been offered to the Council and it is hoped that the Welsh Board of Health will sanction the transfer. If this is done much needed improvements can be carried out to improve the quality of the water. The quantity has been found to be sufficient for the needs of the village if supervision is regularly maintained in the late summer and autumn months; there is more water going to waste than is being used; and should this water be brought into use it will be sufficient for any development in Clyro for the next twenty years. The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small piped supplies.

### (d) Glasbury Parish.

In this parish there are 94 cottages of which some 49 have water laid on from the Council's mains. During the year no shortage of water was experienced. The other 45 cottages, together with 19 farm dwellings are served by small shallow wells, pumps or small private supplies. Water from the shallow wells has to be carried from distances varying from 20 to 400 yards. During the year the water to the Elementary School was completed thereby giving a satisfactory supply to the School and School House. In the case of severe drought the domestic needs suffer much more than the agricultural needs.

### (e) Llanbodr-Painseastlo Parish

This parish has one small supply serving three farms and six cottages and the other properties have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. In times of drought both domestic and agricultural needs are seriously handicapped. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanbwchllyn Lake.

### (f) Llandewifach Parish

This parish has no piped supply and in times of drought the domestic need is greater, since the agricultural need is easily met by the river. This parish can be easily supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 3 cottages and 15 farms in the parish.

### (g) Llandilo-Graban Parish

This parish has three piped supplies, and one of these serving one farm is so defective it could be easily written off. The remaining properties have small shallow wells and are all subject to gross pollution. This parish can be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in the parish.



(h) Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings and 12 are served by a private supply laid on to each house. The remaining dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned in the other parishes. This parish could be easily supplied from Llanbwehllyn Lake.

(i) Llowes Parish.

The Council has a small undertaking in this parish and serves the hamlet of Llowes. The mains do not allow water to reach the proposed new Housing Site and it is proposed to lay a 2 inch main from the reservoir direct to the site. The remaining properties in the parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.

Water Sampling

During the year 45 samples from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

Highly satisfactory	0.
Satisfactory ...	25.
Suspicious ...	0.
Unsatisfactory ...	20.

The above results emphasize the great need for the Llanbwehllyn water scheme which is still under consideration.

The above results are classified according to the Ministry of Health Report No.17 (1939) which suggests that non-chlorinated piped supplies should be as follows:-

Presumptive coliform count  
per 100 ml. water.

Class I. Highly satisfactory	Less than 1.
Class II. Satisfactory	1 to 2.
Class III. Suspicious	3 to 10.
Class IV. Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10.

Small rural private supplies from shallow wells should not often show 50 coliform organisms per 100 ml. Persistent failure to obtain this standard should lead to condemnation.

Total number of inspections to water supplies 50.

Sewerage and Drainage

There are no sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district but instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineer to prepare schemes for the villages of Clyro and Glasbury.

Number of visits to drainage work 10.

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection was continued during the year in the parishes of Llanstephan, Boughrood, Glasbury, Llowes and Clyro with a weekly collection. Monthly collections were given in the parishes of Llandilo-Graban Llanbedr-Paincastle and Bryngwyn. All refuse is tipped by the control method at Clyro.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector and the following details give information for the year:-

<u>Nuisances</u>	Number of complaints received	14
	Number of complaints investigated	14
	Number of premises visited	14
	Number of premises inspected	18
	Number of premises re-visited	10
	Number of Abatement Notices served	0





There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repairs are of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of materials will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

#### Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under Byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

#### Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

#### Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

#### Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector 12.

#### Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district 2.

Number of inspections made 9.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

Any premises found, as a result of complaint or inspection, to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparation. No premises were found to be infested during the year.

#### Verminous Premises

Number of premises disinfested 0.

#### Rodent Control

One full time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban and Hay Rural District Councils.

	1948	1949	1950
Number of premises inspected during the year	159	109	158
Number of premises found infested	37	23	53
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator	24	9	38
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	319	169	546
Number of dead rats recovered during the year	114	37	155

### SECTION 5 HOUSING

Arising from a questionnaire received from the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire, a survey of some 541 houses was carried out during the year to give the information asked by the Council on Housing, Water, Sewerage, Electricity and Transport. The result of the survey is briefly set out.

#### (a) Housing

Of the 541 houses, 77 were occupied by agricultural workers, 47 by other agricultural workers and 91 were occupied by other workers. 236 houses were farm houses let with the holding and 3 were occupied other than with the agricultural holding, 11 houses were vacant and the occupants of the other 76 houses were not classified because it was assumed they were outside the object of the survey.





The condition of the above houses is as follows:-

Condition	Occupied by Agricultural Workers.		Other Workers.
	On agricultural holdings	Engaged on other agric. work.	
(1) Houses requiring major repairs, structural alteration or improvement.	12	11	19
(2) Requiring reconditioning	27	24	22
(3) Requiring demolition (i.e. unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense)	20	6	28
(4) Houses with minor defects	7	3	10
(5) Satisfactory in all respects	11	3	12
Condition	Farmhouses		Vacant Houses.
	Let with holding	Otherwise occupied.	
(1) Houses requiring major repairs, structural alterations or improvement.	57	0	2
(2) Requiring reconditioning	145	1	1
(3) Requiring demolition (i.e. unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense)	20	2	8
(4) Houses with minor defects	5	0	0
(5) Satisfactory in all respects	9	0	0

(b) Water

No. of houses without a piped water supply			No. of houses included in Col.1 which are within reasonable distance of a stand-pipe supply.			Estimated no. of houses in Col.1. which can be provided with piped water by schemes which have been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health.		
Farm-houses	Agric. workers	Others	Farm-houses	Agric. workers	Others	Farm-houses	Agric. workers	Others
140	63	37	9	8	16	136	36	35

(c) Sewerage

There are no public sewerage schemes in the district. 322 houses have pail closets, 138 houses have earth boxes and 75 houses have cess pools.

The Council were informed that the District Council had asked its Consulting Engineer to submit a scheme for a sewer at Glasbury.

(d) Electricity

225 farmhouses, 88 houses occupied by agricultural workers and 43 houses occupied by other workers were without an electricity supply. The Electricity Authority had been asked to furnish a supply to the village of Llowes.



(c) Transport

It was reported that the southern portion of the district was fairly well served with bus services and it did not seem possible to give the marginal and hill farming community a better bus service until means of such a service could be entirely divorced from the economies involved.

Housing Act 1949.

This Act received Royal Assent in July 1949. Under the Act you are the authority for administering the Grants and Loans which are permitted thereunder.

Under Section 1 of the Act limitations under previous Housing Acts are removed by reference to the "working classes" and this means it is the duty of the Housing Authority to consider the housing conditions and needs of all the inhabitants and brings all houses under provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1936 to include all persons, where displaced, under Part III of the Housing Act 1936 to extend so as to include all persons, the re-housing obligation imposed by Section 137 of and the eleventh schedule of the Housing Act 1936.

It also lays down a standard for the improved dwellings which may be eligible for the Improvement Grant, which must not exceed one half of the approved expense up to a maximum of £600, which may be exceeded where the buildings involved are of architectural or historic interest.

No applications for Grant were received during the year.

The present yearly licensing "ceiling figure" allowed by the Ministry of Works for this district is inadequate and application should be made to the Ministry for this figure to be increased to allow property owners to take full advantage of the Act.

Council Housing Programme

Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during year.

Four new houses were erected in the year at Glasbury. Much concern must be felt for the lack of builders coming forward to build houses in the rural districts, for this reason no tender was submitted for the proposed houses at Llowes.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk On 1st. October 1949 the Milk & Dairies Act 1944 came into operation and under this Act the licensing of producers and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. The Council is now left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Number of milk samples taken	4.
Number of samples satisfactory	3.
Number of samples unsatisfactory	1.

Meat There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry's slaughterhouse at Brecon. No meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Other Foods

There was no other food condemned during the year.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district but 5 visits were made to other premises.





Ice-cream Premises

There is only one property registered for the sale of ice-cream in the district and no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Number of visits to ice-cream premises 5.

Fried Fish Shops.

There are no fried fish shops in the district.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year:-

Measles ... 3.

Number of premises disinfected ... 1.

Veneral Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital at Hereford for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. The County Council is responsible for the Allowance Scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work is carried out by the Radnorshire County Council and no cases of diphthreia were notified during the year.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year was 22. No child was given a secondary injection during the year.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>Immunised</u>	<u>Estimated child</u> <u>population</u>
Under 1 year ...	3	
Age 1 year ...	17	
Age 2 years ...	-	157
Age 3 years ...	-	
Age 4 years ...	-	
Age 5 - 9 years	2	
Age 10 - 14 years	-	271
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 428

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON. M.B.,CH.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

